

REMARKS

Reconsideration and removal of the grounds for rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 16, 18, and 20-32 were in the application, claim 16 has been amended.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

The applicants' attorney wishes to thank the examiner for his taking the time to meet and discuss the present application.

At the interview, a sample of a device constructed in accordance with the present invention was displayed, as well as one constructed according to the description in the prior art, specifically, Moraht, et al. The differences in the operation between the prior art and the invention were reviewed, particularly the positive tactile feel that gave a clear demarcation to an operator of the switch from a single shot mode to a multi shot mode. Proposed changes to claim 16 were discussed to clarify the elements which achieve this effect, and these are incorporated in the amendments to claim 16 above.

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 16 has been amended to recite that the fourth valve means includes having "the lengthened and shaped element protruding externally from the first seat (12), and having an element portion engageable by the trigger", and also that in the second activation condition, the trigger is further and completely pressed "only after overcoming the biasing force of the elastic means (13) to give a tactile feel when the trigger engages the element portion and displaces the element for moving the fourth valve means...".

Support of these amendments is found on page 5, lines 11-30.

Claims 16, 18, 20-32 were rejected as being obvious over Mohaht et al, U.S. Patent no. 4,915,013 in view of Ramspeck, U.S. Patent no. 3,547,003.

As discussed during the interview, the applicants' invention provides a novel single trigger mode control, allowing a user to switch from a single hit, to automatic multiple hits, using finger pressure. This switching mechanism is provided using the

combination of four valve means identified in claim 16, integrated so as to be responsive to operation of a single trigger pull. Thus, a user does not have to stop and operate a separate switch to switch between two modes, but only needs to vary the degree of trigger pull, and further, the operator has a clear tactile feel of increased resistance to the further pull when switching modes, according to the applicants invention.

Positive feedback to the user is provided when activating the automatic mode, as the trigger must additionally overcome the biasing force of the elastic means 13 when displacing a projecting portion of the element of the fourth valve means.

Mohaht has a system for converting from the single shot mode to the continuous shot mode using a vertical pin (threaded sleeve) 100 inside of which is housed a sealing element 101. As seen in the drawings, figures 2-5, in each case, the trigger has to be held in the same position, to keep the sealing element 101 in place if a multi shot mode is desired. There is no difference in tactile feel between modes, as the operator must hold the sealing element in position to achieve the multi-shot cycle. If the operator holds too long, though only wanting a single shot, there will be an unwanted shift to the automatic mode. Further, if the operator does not fully pull back the trigger, such that the sealing element does not completely seal the vent opening, air leakage will occur which could cause a misfire of the device in single shot mode. In any event, there is no fourth valve with the element as present in claim 16, and nothing to give the tactile feel to an operator so as to assure that the desired mode is achieved.

The patent to Ramspeck has a separate switch that must be operated to switch modes, and this requires the operator to stop to make the switch before continuing, the switch back as needed, which reduces productivity. Even if combined with Moraht et al, it would not arrive at the applicants invention.

Claims 16-32 were rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent 3,547,003 to Ramspeck. The discussion above presents the substantial differences between the present invention and Ramspeck, namely, the use of a separate switch, requiring a

separate hand operated switch distinct from the trigger, would not make the present claims obvious..

Based on the above amendments and remarks, favorable consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested. However should the examiner believe that direct contact with the applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of the application, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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